

- ***Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the***

- Go to any little league field, major, even softball...

The width of home plate never changes.

- It's always seventeen inches wide. Its dimensions are never up for discussion.
 - Players can choose uniforms, hats, shoes, and bats. But when it came to the plate, it was unchangeable and its size non-negotiable.

The width of the plate was immutable.

- When a pitcher couldn't throw the ball over the seventeen-inch wide mark, the umpire didn't offer to widen it...I'm going to get a new plate just for you.

You could say it's Holy (Unchanging)

- The idea of holiness in the Bible is, in many ways, like the home plate in baseball.
- ***Holiness describes something that is "set apart" and predetermined by God.***
- **Greatest statement God ever made- I AM!**

- Holiness is a decision of your will—it is what you choose to do with your life. It is your conduct—living according to God's commandments. In short, holiness is doing those things that please Him.

- **Popular opinion cannot change it. Majority rule does not alter it. My preference does not affect it. The Supreme Court cannot change it.**

- ***When God deems something as holy, it is holy from Little League to the Majors, from the beginning of life to the end of life.***

- *What is holy to God? Why is it holy to God? Is it holy to me?*

You are holy.

- ***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession... 1 Peter 2:9***
- In Christ, God's holiness is your holiness. SET APART!

Human life is holy.

- ***16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple***

is holy, and you are that temple. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

- God sanctifies ALL human life.
- **Every beating heart matters to God.**
- Whether that life is in the womb of a mother, the cell of a prison, the hallway of a convalescent home that life is Holy to God.

Marriage is holy.

- I say- Joined together in **holy matrimony**, the term is accurate.
- Jesus described a marriage "... *So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. Matthew 19:6*
- Marriage is not like your friendships or your relationship with your siblings. It is "set apart".

Sex is holy.

- *"Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband." Hebrews 13:4 MSG*
- TV and Movies has made sex a casual thing.

- God sees sex as a unique portrayal of **divine** intimacy.
 - God is not anti-sex. After all, he invented it!
 - He regards it as a holy act; a portrayal of the relationship he desires with us.

• *Deer antler story...*

The Sabbath is holy.

- Let six days be used for work. But set one aside for spiritual and physical restoration.

• *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Exodus 20:8*

The tithe is holy.

• *Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord. Leviticus 27:30*

- The first ten percent of everything you earn is, in God's eyes, holy money.
 - We never give it to God, we return what is already his.
- The tithe is holy.***

The name of God is holy.

- ***No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter; GOD won't put up with the irreverent use of his name. Exodus 20:7 MSG***
- Satan never prompts us to say: "Satan-dammit" or "demon-damn you." Profanity is his way of rubbing the luster off the name of God.
- **He has a simple ploy: dilute the power of His name by making it common.**

Framing the Pitch

- Here is the misconception in the church:
- *The anointing is an indicator of my holiness.*
- **The anointing comes for service.**
 - The anointing comes on you to do or accomplish a task.
 - Moses, Joshua, David...
- **The anointing is empowering you to do something, not necessarily change your behavior.**
- **This how people can be anointed with hangups!**
 - Samson
- Preacher, when he sang...

- **I can't allow the applause to serve as an indicator that I'm living right.**
 - People shouted today when I sang- so i'm good
 - People got saved today when I preached- so I'm good.
 - People got healed today when I prayed for them- So I'm good
- **We think that we can live like they live and do what they do- BECAUSE THEY'RE ANOINTED!!!**
 - God used the devil, a donkey
- I thinks it time we stop running after someones anointing and start running after Christ the Anointed One!

Intentional Walk

- Let's be clear. We are saved by grace, not by being good.
- ***What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Romans 6:15***

- *Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. Ecclesiastes 8:11*
- **Walks add up!**
- The width of home plate is not up for discussion, neither is God's call to holiness!
- *15but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16*
- ***Are we messing with the width of home plate?***
- There is much discussion these days about the deterioration of our country... Do we agree with God's definition of holiness? As a society, as a country, are we submitting ourselves to heaven's view of the sacred?
- We disregard the value of life and abort thousands of babies each day. We make a mockery out of marriage by re-defining it. Promiscuous sex is seen as a badge of honor and open-mindedness. We work first and rest later, rather than worship so we can work better. *Is anything sacred?*

- The mark of a deteriorating society is its disregard for the sacred.
- **God's commands are meant to help us, not to burden us.**
- *"They tell me that I rub the fur the wrong way. I don't; tell the cat to turn around." — Billy Sunday*
- I love to see some dads lead the way today. I'd love to see teenagers step up...